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treatment of the fundamental propositions underlying the theory of government. The main body of the work is divided into the law relating to persons and that relating to things (or property). Under the law of persons the author discusses the theory of rights and remedies, the law of our constitution, the law of corporations, personal rights, and domestic relations. Things are divided into those personal and those real. Under the sections devoted to the former the writer gives us a short abstract of those topics which include the great part of the civil branch of our jurisprudence. The law of actions is next treated. Under this head are included the rules of evidence. The last in order is the law of crimes.

To him who desires a knowledge of the very elementary parts of the law some portions of this book will be useful. But to the thorough student it is absolutely valueless, and to the practicing lawyer it will be of little service. In conclusion, it may be deplored that one possessing the author's clearness of expression and great erudition should have so far mistaken the needs of the present day as to take as his model a method and a text-book now obsolete.

H. F.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE AT THE HAGUE. And its Bearings on International Law and Policy. By Frederick W. Holls, D. C. L. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1900. pp. xxix, 573.

The object of this work is to place the story of the Hague Conference and a description of its work before the general reader as well as the student of international law. After a discussion of events leading up to and including the opening session, there is given a detailed account of the work of the three committees into which the conference was divided. Following an interesting statement of the attitude of the United States concerning the immunity of private property on the high seas and other general topics, the body of the work concludes with a consideration of the bearings of the conference on international law and policy. The appendices contain the text, in French and in English, of the final act, the treaties, and the declarations adopted by the conference; the reports of the American commissioners to their government; and an account of the Grotius celebration at Delft.

While there appears in the rescript of the Emperor of Russia no intention to discuss measures for disarmament, many have felt that the conference was a failure in not providing for the limitation of future armament. Before beneficial results have been exemplified, it is not likely that many will take so optimistic a view of the work of the conference as Mr. Holls avowedly does; nevertheless, the results actually achieved must not be slighted. The adoption to maritime warfare of the principles of the Geneva Convention (1864) is probably of even greater importance than the author contends. The same is true of the revision of the regulations respecting the laws and customs of war on land, as embodied by the Brussels Conference (1874), but never before ratified. In the opinion of Mr. Holls the substantial achievement of the conference was the result of the work of the third committee — the convention for the peaceful adjustment of international differences. But, as the author realizes, the beneficial results of this convention depend entirely upon public opinion. For, all that is provided is a machinery for settling those differences which contending nations may be willing to submit to adjudication. Hence the

statement that this convention is "the Magna Charta of International Law" is probably too strong. The status of international law resulting from the Hague Conference resembles more nearly the condition of early Anglo-Saxon law, before compulsory judicial proceedings were recognized. *POLLOCK AND MAITLAND, HIST. OF ENG. LAW*, vol. 1, p. 14. The international recognition of arbitration is an important step towards the peaceful settlement of international differences ; but it is only a preliminary step that must be followed by something more substantial.

Almost all that is contained in the main part of the work can be secured from the treaties adopted and from the reports of the American commissioners. But the real value of the book lies in the fact that these treaties and reports were not readily accessible. Mr. Holls has, therefore, performed a valuable service in presenting, in an interesting and readily accessible form, a careful account of an event worthy of more consideration than it has received.

W. D. E.

THE LAW AND PRACTICE IN BANKRUPTCY UNDER THE NATIONAL BANKRUPTCY ACT OF 1898, with Citations to the Decisions to Date. By Wm. Miller Collier. Third edition. Revised and enlarged. By James W. Eaton. Albany, N. Y.: Matthew Bender. 1900. pp. xlvi, 866.

The two prior editions of this book (one of which is noticed in 12 HARVARD LAW REVIEW, 288), both appearing within a few months of the enactment of the present bankruptcy act, were useful chiefly as a forecast of the probable interpretation of the act by the courts, upon the analogy of cases decided under the former bankruptcy acts. Mr. Eaton is now enabled to fortify the work with the decisions of the last two years upon the present act. As was to have been expected, many of the questions have been decided as under the previous statutes, and much of the text, therefore, has needed no material revision, but only the addition of recent authorities. When, however, the decisions have gone *contra* to Mr. Collier's prognostications, or have served to throw new light on some complex matter, the text has been rewritten or expanded in conformity with the present state of the law. The arrangement of the book, treating in turn each section of the act, is, in the main, convenient though not always logical, but that defect is primarily the fault of the act itself. The commentary is suggestive and the citations full. Extracts from recent decisions are inserted with discrimination. Besides this statement of the act section by section, each with its appropriate comment and authorities, the book contains the general orders in bankruptcy, annotated, the official forms, and the United States Equity Rules (now followed in bankruptcy proceedings), each separately indexed. The text of all the four federal bankruptcy acts, state exemption laws, and list of judges and clerks of courts of bankruptcy, and the time and place of holding court, etc., together with a general index, complete the volume. The work is on the whole adequate and seems well adapted to the needs of the practising lawyer.

E. S. T.

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